

## **FAQs**

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### **1. What is a teaching artist?**

“A teaching artist (artist-educator) is a practicing professional artist with the complementary skills and sensibilities of an educator, who engages people in learning experiences in, through, and about the arts.”  
—Eric Booth, nationally recognized actor, teaching artist and author.

“Teaching Artist – a practicing professional artist, with many of the skills and sensibilities of an educator, who collaborates with organizations and schools to design and implement units of instruction aimed at engaging learners in learning in or through the arts.”

—from *Young Audiences*

The work of a teaching artist embraces a variety of mediums, settings, purposes and formats. Teaching artists are called upon to develop mastery, both as practicing artists **and** as teaching artists, skilled at teaching the principles, ideas, skills, history and individuality of their chosen art form. Teaching artists encompass a broad range of professional skills and demands, including artistry, presentation skills, design and delivery of programs, ongoing assessment, partnership and collaboration.

**For more information about Teaching Artists visit [www.azarts.gov/artists/teachingartists.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/artists/teachingartists.htm)**

### **2. Can I mail my supplemental material and artistic work samples?**

No. The new Teaching Artist Roster is designed to allow all supplemental material to be uploaded through the ERC system. The Commission will not accept any materials sent by mail in support of a roster application.

**For more information about uploading your work visit <http://roster.azarts.gov/index.a4d?action=help.profile#sampleWork>**

**For more information about Supplemental Material visit [www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm)**

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is pleased to offer reasonable accommodations for any artist requiring accessibility accommodations with regard to the submission of artistic work samples. **Requests must be vetted prior to the application deadline.** For more information visit [www.azarts.gov/accessibility](http://www.azarts.gov/accessibility) or contact Jaya Rao at [jrao@azarts.gov](mailto:jrao@azarts.gov), 602-771-6501.

### 3. What should I know about working in residency programs?

- Residencies sometimes take place in non-traditional spaces, with diverse participants, limited resources, and varying schedules. Are you comfortable with presenting your work under these circumstances?
- Residencies are based on your working process. Take time to evaluate and reflect on your creative processes and the business aspects of your work.
- When working in schools, teaching artists are asked to create activities/components for teacher/staff training session and student activities. What types of programs and offerings will you create?

You may ask other artists about their experience participating in similar programs and situations. Try calling current Teaching Artist Roster artists and get a sense of what these programs involve, or ask to visit them during a residency. A current Roster is available on our website at [www.azarts.gov/roster01.asp](http://www.azarts.gov/roster01.asp).

For more information about Education-based Residencies visit [www.azarts.gov/guide/intro.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/guide/intro.htm)

### 4. Why should I apply for the Teaching Artist Roster?

There are several reasons why you might want to apply for the Teaching Artist Roster. They include:

**Residency Opportunities** – The Teaching Artist Roster is a major resource for schools, after-school programs, and communities around the state who are seeking artists for residency work. The Commission's Artist in Residence program serves an average of 130 schools and communities a year and many of the sponsoring sites go to the Roster to secure artists. Roster artists are also the only artists many schools will work with because of the rigorous audition process to be vetted and listed on the Roster. In addition, the Commission funds other Project grants, which serve a wide variety of organizations interested in conducting residency activities. Many of the applicants in these areas rely on the Roster as a tool for finding artists.

**Professional Resources and Networking** – As a Teaching Artist listed on the Roster you may take advantage of Commission-sponsored workshops and conferences at a discounted or no-fee basis. The Biannual Teaching Artists' Symposium is a professional development opportunity for Roster artists to foster a sense of community and allows artists to share resources and ideas and develop new skills. Roster Artists will also receive a subscription to the Commission's Teaching Artist Newsletter.

**Promotion of your work** – Each teaching artist receives a web page on the online Teaching Artist Roster. The Commission promotes the Teaching Artist Roster throughout the state at community workshops and gatherings and encourages its use by all arts learning partners. Additionally we will locate opportunities for you to network with the community through the Connections Café, which allows only Roster Artists to network and display information on their residency programs. Connections Café events will gather presenters, arts administrators, educators, teachers, artists and organizations, interested in residency programs.

Once artists are selected, they often receive offers of work; however, this is not guaranteed, and artists are encouraged to implement their own marketing efforts.

**Professional Development** - The Commission invests time, funds, and training to support the professional development of Roster Artists on an ongoing basis. The teaching profession is in a constant state of change. It is critical that artists continue to develop and reflect upon their work as teaching artists. Teaching artists require ongoing professional development in order to stay abreast of changes affecting the learning outcomes of their students. Some of the professional development opportunities may include:

- Half off registration fee at annual Southwest Arts Conference
- Discounted attendance to yearly Artist and Teaching Artist Workshops
- Discounted attendance to biannual Artist Symposium

### 5. What are the annual requirements to remain on the Teaching Artist Roster?

For more information about annual requirements visit [www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm)

## **6. Should I apply for the Education- or Community-based track or both?**

The Education-based track is for artists interested in working with students and teachers in learning in, through, and about the arts. Artists should be able to comfortably work with the Arizona Arts Standards and co-create curriculum guidelines with teachers. Additionally artists will provide professional development training for teachers.

The Community-based track is for artists interested in working with the community in unique settings—such as libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, arts centers, and festivals. Artists should be flexible and able to create programs in conjunction with their partners, responding to the needs and wants of the community. Artists will provide workshops, lecture/demonstrations, and performances.

## **7. Technology Questions**

If you experience difficulty with the online roster system, please follow these steps:

### **Step One**

Refer to ERC guidelines at <http://roster.azarts.gov/index.a4d?action=help.profile#sampleWork>.

### **Step Two**

If you were unable to resolve your problem by reviewing the ERC guidelines, send an email with “**Technical Assistance**” in the SUBJECT LINE to [teachingartistroster@azarts.gov](mailto:teachingartistroster@azarts.gov). We cannot guarantee that the Commission staff will be able to solve your specific problem; however, Commission staff will do whatever they can to help you resolve the problem.

### **Step Three**

If the Commission staff is unable to help you resolve your technical problem, they will refer your call to the ERC technical support network.

## **8. What type of Fees should I set?**

Education-based fees are set at \$50 per hour/session. Roster Teaching Artists set their own performance, lecture/demonstration, and other fees. All Community-based fees are set by the artist or company.

For more information about Teaching Artists Roster fees visit [www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/fees.pdf](http://www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/fees.pdf)

## **9. What types of Grants are available to Organizations and Schools from the Commission?**

For more information about Commission grant programs visit the Guide to Grants for Organizations and Schools at [www.azarts.gov/guide](http://www.azarts.gov/guide)

## **10. What types of Grants are available to Artists from the Commission?**

For more information about grants available from the Commission visit [www.azarts.gov](http://www.azarts.gov)

## **11. Do I have to re-interview each year once I’m juried onto the Teaching Artist Roster?**

No. However there are annual requirements that you must fulfill in order to remain on the Roster.

For more information visit [www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/artists.htm)

## **12. What if I can’t attend the interview date?**

This requirement will be waived only when the artist has a professional engagement accepted prior to the publication of the Teaching Artist Roster (May 1<sup>st</sup>) or for an expected birth or significant health issue. Waivers are not given for conflicts with conferences, professional development, etc. The Commission does not wish to stand in the way of artists presenting their work but intends to preserve the integrity of the application process. The Commission reserves the right to review any extenuating circumstances.

## **13. I’m with a Company. Who from my Company should attend the interview?**

Any artist within the company that conducts the residency programs will need to attend the interview. Artists within the company that primarily perform and do not engage in residency programs do not need to attend the interview.